

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Aruba's Diamond Jubilee Carnival finishes with a flourish!



ORANJESTAD -- This year's carnival event being a very special landmark year, the extra effort and enthusiasm for the ultimate manifestation of Aruba's culture was very evident in the final weekend parades. On Saturday and Sunday, for the final San Nicolas and Oranjestad Grand Pa-

rades, fourteen groups filled the streets with music and revel, surely a record.

Aside from the traditional carnival groups, the new Meta Social Club debuted with a spectacular effort, filled with rich costumes and gorgeous floats. TOB showed off their winner of the Youth Queen

crown in a stunning array of giant glittering hibiscus.

A record number of steel pan groups and bands participated. Visiting bands from Suriname and Curacao also marched in this 60th anniversary event. Judges will be hard put to select the trophy winners from the spectacular display of artfully constructed floats and sumptuous costumes. In every way, including this year's music submission and winners, it was a rich and memorable Carnival 60!

See pg 2 & 9 for more pictures



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The Ukraine tensions soar as Russia 'issues Crimea ultimatum'

KIEV (AFP) - The Ukraine today accused Russia of pouring more troops into Crimea and giving its forces an ultimatum to surrender as world leaders grappled with Europe's worst stand-off since the Cold War.

Russia's Black Sea Fleet swiftly denied any such demand as "nonsense" and the country's parliament speaker said there was no need yet for Moscow to use its "right" to launch military action in the Ukraine.

But world markets plunged and oil prices spiked on fears of an all-out offensive that would pit nuclear-armed Russia against its neighbour of 46 million whose new team of untested leaders has strong Western support.

"The ultimatum is to recognise the new Crimean authorities, lay down our weapons and leave, or be ready for an as-

sault," regional Ukrainian defence ministry spokesman Vladyslav Seleznyov told AFP.

"It may be at 1:00 am, 2:00 am, 3:00 am (Tuesday). There are different times," he said.

But a spokesman for the fleet based in Crimea told the Interfax news agency the claim was "complete nonsense. We are used to daily accusations about using force against our Ukrainian colleagues," the unnamed spokesman said. "Efforts to make us clash won't work."

Crimea -- the strategic host to tsarist and Kremlin navies since the 18th century -- has been under de facto occupation by Moscow-backed forces who have raised Russian flag over government buildings and blocked Ukrainians troops inside their barracks across the peninsula.

Continued on page 6

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Aruba's Diamond Jubilee Carnival finishes with a flourish!



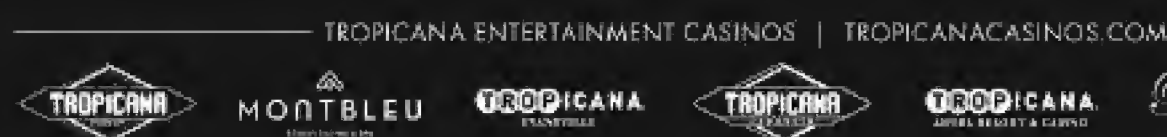


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Aruba Central Bank issues first Carnaval 60 commemorative coin

ORANJESTAD – Last Friday, representatives of the Aruba Central Bank paid a courtesy visit to the Council of Parliament. During the visit they handed over the first Carnaval 60 commemorative coin.

Central Bank Director Myriam Gonzalez, representing Aruba Financial Affairs President Jane Semeleer, handed the commemorative coin to Minister of Finance Juan David Yrausquin. The minister expressed his admiration for the beauty of the coin and afterwards handed it over to Prime Minister Mike Eman.



handed the coin to Carnaval 60 Queen Zuria

Flemming.

The second coin was

handed over by Ministers

Eman and Yrausquin to

SAC President Mrs. Tecla Kelly



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With the exception of a few persons, who found it necessary to give a disgusting, vulgar "dance-performance", I herewith thank the hundreds of other participants, the tireless police, the Lady with the "iron Fists" and the personnel of a local T.V.-company for making it possible that I could enjoy the longest and most beautiful Carnival's parade ever held in San Nicolas.

I am not a Carnival's person, but I must admit, it was very beautiful and for the participants who stood more than six hours in the scorching sun and then walking four hours, it was not an easy task

Just imagine, with a little fine tuning in the timing and the length of the parade, what the 70th Carnival's parade could be.

Roland Peterson





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Aruba's 60th Carnival Award results

ROADPIECE:

Gold : Black/White Diamond / Majestic
Silver : Mardi-grass / TOB
Bronze : Diamond Jubilee / Majestic



BODYROAD:

Gold : Blood Diamonds / Boedoem / Majestic
Silver : Exotic Diamond / Andy Mendez / Champagne
Bronze : Music / Cheryl Richardson / Pleasers and Teasers

BODYPIECE:

Gold : Kim Peterson / Queen of Sheba / Majestic
Silver : Sergio Valderama / Green Cyborgs / Dushi Band
Bronze : Yelsemine Quelotte / Celestial Guardian / Dushi Band

SHOULDERPIECE:

Gold : Roderick Kock / Pleasers and Teasers
Silver : Isenia Angela / Balashi Tropical / Meta Social Club
Bronze : Luisa Villar / TOB

SECTION:

Gold : Cyborgs / Dushi Band
Silver : NY Laundry Meta Social Club
Bronze : Black Diamonds / Majestic

FLOAT:

Gold : Festival de Las Flores / TOB
Silver : FCCA Celebration / Majestic
Bronze : World Dance Festival / TOB

MASSA:

Gold : Champagne
Silver : Majestic
Bronze : Dushi Band

CREATIVE: Cyborgs Roadpiece / Gerard Halley / Dushi Band

COMMERCIAL: Crystal Casino-Theater (roadpiece) / Meta Social Club

JOYFULL: Around the Clock / Los Laga Bay

COMICAL: Nos Pensioen / Loco Loco Carnal Group

INNOVATIVE: Diamond of India / Pushing Area

BEST ROAD DANCE SHOW: The Pop Corn Dancers / TOB

KING OF BAND 2014: Alvin Koolman / Majestic

QUEEN OF BAND 2014: Jade Padron / TOB

GROUP OF THE YEAR:

Gold : Majestic Carnival Group
Silver : T.O.B. Carnival Group
Bronze : META Social Club

ARUBA'S 60TH CARNAVAL BAND OF THE YEAR: 'N FUSION

Cas Animal Cont'd

Meet Deano: His bags are packed and he's ready to go to a new home in the U.S.

ORANJESTAD -- The Cas Animal Foundation of Aruba is dedicated to rescuing abandoned and abused dogs off island streets, ideally to be placed in a good home. No matter how badly injured or weakened by diseased, Cas Animal founder, Kirsten Arndt, has discovered hundreds of times over that with proper medical care, they can be rehabilitated to be a wonderful friend to a loving person. Often, their afflictions are only superficial, but rendering them unattractive, which is no reason, in Kirsten's opinion, to deprive them of a happy life and the chance to be a loyal, loving companion. Kirsten also maintains an animal ambulance, and can be contacted to report a dog in distress at any time.

A driving goal, at present, is to build Aruba's first no-kill animal shelter, but the primary purpose of the foundation, aside from providing a home for the unwanted, is to place the rescued dogs in loving homes. For the last six months Cas Animal has been experiencing exceptional success along this line. A perfect example of this process is Deano, ready to go off to a home in Massachusetts, where Wendy Gibbons eagerly awaits his arrival.

Deano's story is a great illustration of how many others share Kirsten's sympathy and love for canines, and cannot turn their backs on such a sad creature in need of a little kindness. Stacy Patterson was living on Aruba with her partner, Deano, who worked at the Valero Refinery. With its clos-



From starving to playful and alert

ing, she has returned to England, their homeland, to settle their affairs before they move on to Australia.

However, Stacy was still unsettled about the fate of a weak, starving puppy she found barely surviving on the streets near the house they had occupied on Aruba. She had contacted Cas Animal, which took in pup, now named Deano, to nurse it back to health. With some mild treatment for a disfiguring skin condition referred to as "puppy fungus," which is easily and inexpensively cured, the little puppy thrived.

Stacy would be happy to adopt Deano herself, but England has extremely strict dog import regulations and demand months of quarantine, and she does not want to put the puppy through that. She found someone in her close friend, Wendy, who is more than willing to take in an Aruban dog and provide it with a good home.

Now Stacy and Cas Animal are looking for someone who is will to take on Deano in his carrier as extra luggage during their flight home to Boston,

where Wendy will be waiting to pick up the puppy at the airport. All expenses will be paid by Stacy and the foundation, including his carrier, he only needs someone to add him on to their party.

Anyone interested in transporting Deano to his new home should all Kirsten at 742-8732, and she will handle everything, meeting you at the airport to introduced you to Deano.

Any readers who have similarly been smitten by one of Aruba's sweet cunucu dogs in need of a good home will find the foundation ready to help you through the process of acquiring the papers and a carrier needed to take one home. As this story demonstrates, this is done regularly and many happy owners find great pleasure in being reminded every day of their time in Aruba by a loving new companion.

The Cas Animal Foundation has a strict no-kill policy, whether new homes are found for rescued dogs, or not. There are now approximately 50 dogs under their care, a number of which are not puppies, and will likely never be adopted. The medical and feeding costs of all the rescued animals is never ending. Those wishing to support Kirsten's work with donations can do so in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics, call; 587-0917. Donations can also be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110.

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3rd Annual Ms. Canada Beach Volleyball fundraiser coming up this Sunday!

ORANJESTAD -- Michelle Begin of Canada considers Aruba her "home away from home" for five weeks every year now for over 30 years, and during this time has involved herself with the local community. She cares greatly for the less fortunate and regularly hosts fundraising events, and began deploying her skills to assist a number of island foundations. She feels compelled to "give back" to the is-

land where she has made so many dear friends, resulting in her annual fundraising volleyball tournament, a fund day for participants and spectators alike.

The vivacious lady who has earned the nickname of "Ms. Canada," and busy with putting together this year's event, which includes spectacular raffle prizes and more interesting perks for participating teams. This past weekend, she was at

Ling & Son's Supermarket with raffle tickets and registration forms. Interested parties will find her there again this coming Saturday and through the week.

This year, the tournament will take place on Sunday, March 9, in what were the tennis courts for the La Cabana and Tropicana Resorts. The facility has now been converted into a beach tennis club. Groups that wish to compete

can sign up in the offices of Beach Tennis Aruba, or BTA, located in the parking lot between the two resorts, or at the Harley Davidson Dealership on L.G. Smith Boulevard. Spaces are still open for teams that wish to compete.



Last year, funds and donations from Balashi Brewery purchased a desperately needed commercial dishwasher for Ambiente Feliz, a full time home for the mentally challenged. This year, they will again receive needed repairs. Other foundations earmarked for the proceeds are Club Kibrahacha 60+, a social and activities center for retirees and a building for the Washington Soccer Field. A portion will also be set aside for the Aruba Scholarship Foundation. One of their board members, Bryan Marchena, is a staunch supporter of Miss Canada's efforts, donating all her printed materials. The ASF provides funding for Aruban students going on to universities in other countries.

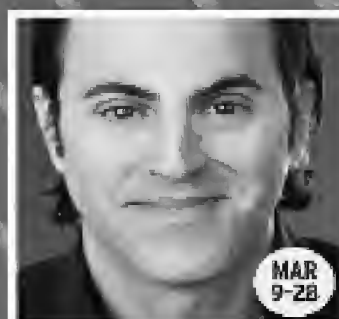
Principal sponsors are, as mentioned, Tropical Bottling/Balashi Brewery and Portfolio Printing in Sun Plaza. Generously donating prizes for the fundraising raffle are Diamante and Queen's Jewelers from Oranjestad with some ex-

quisite pieces. Michelle has also personally contributed a set of His/Her quartz watches with Mother of Pearl. Renaissance Resort has provided a weekend stay at their resort as a raffle prize, and some lucky winners will get 4 nights/5 days at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino or a full week at the Tropicana Resort. The tournament starts at 9:00 AM in the morning and the raffle drawing will be conducted at 6:00 PM.

Last year, a full roster provided an exciting day of beach volleyball action. There will be food and drink booths to further help raise funds. To meet her mark of \$10,000, Michelle will be stationed at Ling & Sons Supermarket on the weekend and at various markets around Aruba through the week selling raffle tickets for \$20.

This fun day for worthy causes is a great way to enjoy an authentic taste of island life. Call Michelle at 564-3179 ASAP to get your registration form and put your team together!

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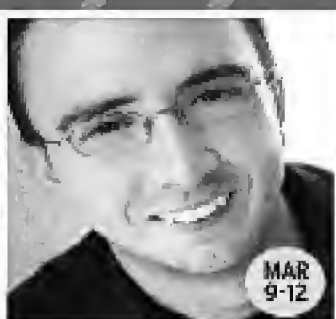
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The Ukraine tensions soar...

Continued from page 1

Russian senators on Saturday gave President Vladimir Putin the authorisation to use force against an ex-Soviet neighbour for the first time since a brief 2008 conflict with Georgia, a move the Ukraine said was tantamount to a declaration of war.

World leaders today held a series of urgent meetings and telephone conversations to try to prevent a conflict and also to help the Ukraine avert a possible catastrophic debt default.

The European Union -- seeking to overcome differences on how to respond to the escalating crisis on its eastern edge -- warned Russia that ties with the 28-member bloc were at risk without a "de-escalation".

Hawkish ex-Soviet satellites are pushing hard for sanctions but others -- including heavyweights France and Germany -- called for soft diplomacy.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague warned Russia of "consequences and costs" as

he met Ukraine's Western-backed but untested interim leaders in Kiev.

The world's richest nations have already threatened to strip Moscow of its coveted seat at the Group of Eight for menacing its ex-Soviet neighbour.

But Europe and Washington appear to have limited options in dealing with Russian President Vladimir Putin -- a veteran strongman with mass domestic appeal who has cracked down on political freedoms and appears more interested in rebuilding vestiges of the Soviet Union than repairing relations with the West.

The crisis threatens to blow up into the biggest test for global diplomacy -- and relations between Moscow and the West -- since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

It first erupted in November when protests began against the pro-Kremlin regime over its scrapping of an EU pact and

culminated in a week of carnage last month that claimed nearly 100 lives and saw the downfall of president Viktor Yanukovich -- now living in exile in Russia.

But Germany offered a rare glimmer of hope by announcing that Putin had agreed in telephone talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday to set up a contact group on the Ukraine. Western allies in NATO also said they wanted to send international observers to the Ukraine while engaging Moscow in direct talks.

Washington added it would like to see a mission from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe deployed in the Ukraine "immediately".

But EU foreign ministers were also considering the possibility of adopting punitive measures against Russia that included an arms embargo should the Kremlin fail to call its troops back to their Crimean bases.



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Foreign minister: Venezuela target of 'psychological war'

GENEVA (AFP) - Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua yesterday accused international media and foreign governments of wilfully misconstruing deadly protests in his oil-rich country in what he called "psychological warfare against my country".

He told the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva that the "propaganda" was supported by "governments that have turned human rights into a weapon for punishing independent governments and to justify foreign intervention in our internal affairs."

His comments came after tens of thousands of Venezuelans yesterday skipped the traditional Carnival holiday that

is a yearly highlight for many to instead take part in nationwide protest marches against President Nicolas Maduro's government. A wave of protests since early last month have left 18 people dead and more than 260 injured, with around 1,000 arrested.

Jaua, who yesterday also discussed the crisis with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, told the council that the demonstrators were anything but peaceful. He insisted his country was facing attempts to overthrow "a legitimately established government," lashing out at foreign states and media that were painting a distorted picture of "generalised chaos and indiscriminate repression."



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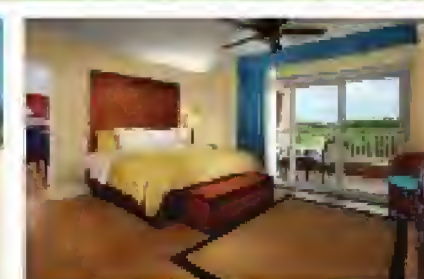
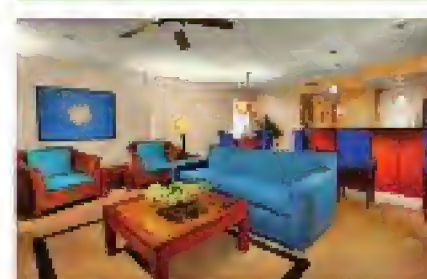
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More winter misery as massive storm wallops Washington



A NASA image from March 2 shows the size of the storm sweeping across the U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Another huge winter storm walloped Washington and surrounding areas on Monday, shutting schools and the federal government, snarling air traffic and blanketing roads in snow.

The bitter March blast was the latest in a succession of miserable weather events that have made this one of the harshest in recent memory for residents of the US East Coast.

In the capital, in a region that bore the brunt of the fierce

system of freezing rain, sleet and blowing snow, the usually bustling morning commute was calm and windswept, white streets largely deserted.

As a precaution, federal government employees were told to stay home and schools in the city and surrounding counties gave their students yet another snow day off.

Many colleges also closed shop for the day due to the nasty conditions -- including Georgetown University, where only emergency employees were required to report to work on time.

While the city's Metro was running on schedule, riders were scarce and bus service was suspended due to dangerous road conditions.

The National Weather Service (NWS) said a winter storm

warning would remain in effect and that four to eight inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of snow were expected.

Weather woes extended beyond the capital area, with the NWS predicting heavy snow from the Ohio Valley into the Mid-Atlantic region through the evening.

Both Baltimore and Philadelphia, where city offices opened with a two-hour delay, were under a winter storm warning, with snow also expected further north in parts of New Jersey.

The icy rain and snow caused headaches for air travelers, with Washington's Dulles International Airport tweeting that runways were open but that many flights were canceled.

Baltimore's BWI Marshall Airport said "only very limited" airline operations were expected Monday morning and that airlines had yet to begin flights.

FlightAware, which tracks airlines, reported more than

2,200 flight cancellations within, into or out of the United States for Monday.

Tourists hoping to seek shelter in Washington's many free museums had to largely rethink their plans, with only the National Air and Space Museum welcoming visitors.

Another favorite for young and old alike, the National Zoo, was also closed for the day.

Despite the unfriendly chill, some Washingtonians -- especially those who unexpectedly got a long weekend -- were gearing up for some fun.

A snowball fight in the city's downtown Dupont Circle was planned for the early afternoon. A similar event in late January drew more than 200 people, according to local media.

But this season's vicious winter weather may have hit the car industry, with US car makers General Motors and Ford reporting it chilled sales in February.

Researchers testing tiny ear computer

TOKYO (AFP) - A tiny personal computer that is worn on the ear and can be controlled with the blink of an eye or the click of a tongue is being tested in Japan.

The 17-gram (0.59-ounce) wireless device has bluetooth capability and is equipped with a GPS, compass, gyro-sensor, battery, barometer, speaker and microphone.

Wearable computing is thought by many commentators to be the next big thing in technology, with products such as Google Glass at the forefront.

The device, known at the moment as the "Earclip-type Wearable PC" has a microchip and data storage, enabling users to load software, said engineer Kazuhiro Taniguchi of Hiroshima City University.

Its designs are based on traditional "ikebana" flower arrangements.

The system, which developers are hoping to have ready for Christmas 2015, can be connected to an iPod or other gadget and would allow the user to navigate through software programmes using facial expressions, such as a raised eyebrow, a stuck-out tongue, a wiggle of the nose or by clenching teeth.

The device uses infrared sensors that monitor tiny movements inside the ear, which differ depending on how the eyes and mouth move.

Because the user does not have to move either hand, its developers say it can serve as "a third hand" for everyone from caregivers to rock-climbers, motorbike riders to astronauts, as well as people with disabilities.

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US Supreme Court set for death row IQ appeal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A Florida inmate is challenging the US state's use of a rigid IQ number to determine intellectual disability, in a case that spotlights the issue of the mentally ill on death row.

Nearly 12 years after banning the death penalty for the intellectually disabled, the Supreme Court on Monday will hear the appeal of Freddie Lee Hall. If he loses, the 68-year-old, who has spent 35 years on death row, is likely to be executed.

In June 2002, the US top court barred states from executing intellectually disabled inmates, but until now left what determined that to the states themselves. In Florida, a person with an IQ of 70 or more is deemed criminally competent to be executed.

Hall, convicted for the rape and murder of a pregnant woman, has been diagnosed with an IQ of 71, but was declared "mentally retarded" since childhood.

In his appeal, his lawyers

argue that Hall falls within a five-percent margin of error cited by psychiatrists and experts when assessing IQ scores.

"No IQ test is a perfect measure of intellectual ability," his written appeal says.

"The best that any test can do, even when correctly administered, is to provide a certain level of confidence, as a statistical matter, that a person's true IQ score... is within a particular range."

It adds: "The predictable consequence of Florida's rule is that persons with mental retardation will be executed. Without this Court's intervention, that will happen here."

Hall's lawyers argue that the rigid cutoff is inconsistent with the commonly agreed upon definition of mental retardation embraced by the Supreme Court in its 2002 decision, which most US states use.

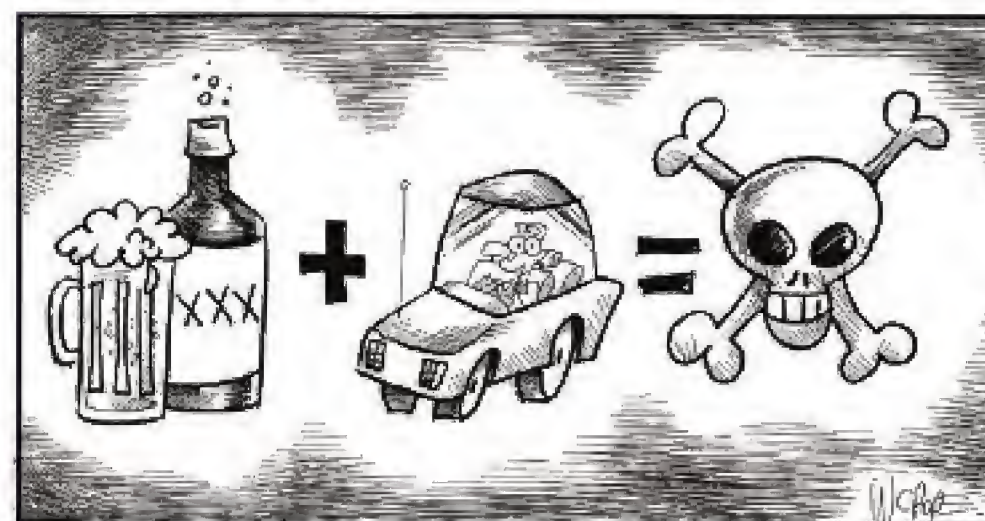
John Blume, Professor of

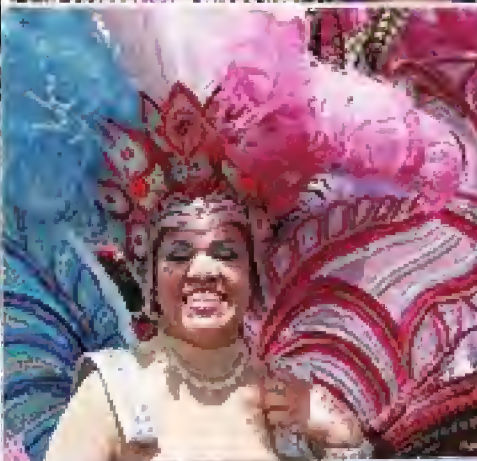
Law at Cornell University, wrote on an American Constitution Society blog: "A ruling in Hall's favor will not affect many states -- or for that matter many cases."

"Nevertheless, the case is still important, not only to Hall -- whose life literally hangs in the balance -- and other Floridians with an intellectual disability, but also to make clear that states cannot narrow a categorical ban created by the Supreme Court intended to protect a vulnerable group from wrongful execution."

In neighboring Georgia, death row inmates need to prove intellectual disability "beyond a reasonable doubt." Warren Hill, who has an IQ of 70, had his application for a stay dismissed in October by the Supreme Court.

Other similar cases include paranoid schizophrenic John Ferguson, who was executed in Florida in August.







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Older dads boost risk of psych problems in kids: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A massive study of more than two million people in Sweden has found that those with older dads faced a higher risk of psychiatric problems, autism and attention disorders, researchers said.

Compared to people whose fathers were between the ages of 20 and 24 at the time of their birth, those with dads 45 or older were 25 times more likely to have bipolar disorder, said the findings in JAMA Psychiatry.

The study found people born to older dads also were 13 times more likely to have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

The research adds to a growing body of science on the negative effects of delayed procreation in men, an area that has traditionally focused on the risks to women and their offspring.

"We were shocked by the findings," said Brian

D'Onofrio, lead author and associate professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University, Bloomington.

"The specific associations with paternal age were much, much larger than in previous studies," said D'Onofrio, who collaborated with researchers. The size of the data set -- 2.6 million people -- accounted for every person born in Sweden from 1973 until 2001.

Older paternal age was linked to a greater likelihood of schizophrenia, suicide attempts and substance abuse problems in offspring, as well as failing grades and lower IQ scores.

Children of dads aged 45 or older also were 3.5 times more likely to have autism and 2.5 times more likely to have suicidal behavior or a substance abuse problem than those born to dads aged 24 and under.

The likelihood of having

one or more of the problems increased steadily with the age of the father, signaling that there was no age threshold which suddenly posed new risks.

And by comparing siblings, researchers found associations with advancing paternal age far higher than in the general population.

Scientists made allowances for the effects of higher income, common in older men and a factor which should negate some hardships of growing up, but found the strong associations remained.

Women have long been counseled that their egg supply is constantly diminishing, while men are making new sperm well into old age.

Researchers now know that DNA mutations can happen each time sperm replicate. As men age, they are exposed to more environmental toxins that can lead to DNA changes in sperm.

Nevertheless, women and men over the past 40 years increasingly have delayed child-birth.

The average age of first-time mothers in the United States was 21.5 in 1970 and by 2011 it was 25.6, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

Men tend to be about three years older on average, according to Indiana University researchers.

Apple Introduces CarPlay Technology for iPhone Use in Vehicles

Apple Inc. (AAPL:US) said technology letting drivers use iPhones with voice commands or steering-wheel buttons will be available in vehicles as early as this year.

Fiat SpA (F)'s Ferrari supercar division, Daimler AG (DAI)'s Mercedes-Benz luxury unit and Volvo Car Group will show customers the CarPlay system this week, with other auto producers introducing it later, Cupertino, California-based Apple said in a statement today. CarPlay will be available as an update to the iOS 7 mobile software on iPhones, and works with the Siri voice-recognition feature. While many Apple products, beginning with the iPod more than a decade ago, have had the ability to work with car audio systems, CarPlay takes the integration a step further, giving users a familiar interface for music, maps and voice-based actions. Carmakers adopting CarPlay can easily appeal to Apple's large customer base, according to Frank Gillett, an analyst at Forrester Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "CarPlay lets drivers use their iPhone in the car with minimized distraction," Greg Joswiak, Apple's marketing vice president for the mobile device, said in the statement, released in advance of the technology's debut at the Geneva International Motor Show this week.




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Brutal winter weather freezes US auto sales

CHICAGO (AFP) - Brutal winter weather chilled US auto sales in February, with General Motors, Ford and Toyota reporting losses Monday even as rival Chrysler extended a winning streak.

But total industry sales last month were expected to rise about one percent once all automakers have reported, Ford forecast.

That would be an improvement over the three percent drop posted in bitterly cold and storm-swept January.

The US auto industry had been on a years-long growth spurt as it recovered from a deep downturn following the 2008 financial crisis.

Analysts and automakers expect booming sales to return with better weather.

"When the weather doesn't behave, it has a negative impact on car shoppers who are looking for an easy and smooth process at the dealership," said Jessica Caldwell, an analyst with the automotive site Edmunds.com.

"The strength of pent-up demand promises to keep sales on the right path as spring approaches."

GM's sales fell one percent

to 222,104 vehicles in February, but the largest US automaker forecast strong growth to come.

"Weather continued to impact the industry in February, but GM sales started to thaw during the Winter Olympic Games as our brand and marketing messages took hold," GM sales chief Kurt McNeil said in a statement.

"Despite a slower start to 2014 than most people expected, we look forward to a very successful year, backed by plenty of new products and what should be the strongest GDP growth since the end of the recession."

Ford's sales fell six percent to 183,947, in part because deliveries of vehicles to fleet customers and parts to its factories were delayed by the wintry weather.

Toyota sales fell four percent to 159,284 vehicles but the Japanese automaker also expressed optimism that sales would improve soon.

Chrysler continued to outpace its rivals and posted its 47th consecutive month of gains -- and its best February since 2007 -- as sales rose 11 percent to 154,866 vehicles.

Microsoft's Gates reclaims title as world's richest

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The surging price of Microsoft shares returned US tech tycoon Bill Gates back to the top of Forbes's world's billionaires list, with his \$76 billion beating out Mexico's Carlos Slim's \$72 billion.

The annual list, released Monday, counted 1,645 men and women as billionaires, with an average wealth of \$4.5 billion and a collective wealth of \$6.4 trillion, up \$1 trillion from a year ago.

Gates, co-founder of the US software firm, showed his staying power at the top -- the world's richest man for 15 of the past 20 years, according to Forbes -- despite spending recent years giving away large sums of money to global health and anti-poverty programs.

Gates owns about 4.4 percent of Microsoft, making up less than 20 percent of his total fortune.

But the company's share price has risen 25 percent over the past year, and, along with gains in other assets, he has added \$7 billion to his fortune since a year ago, according to Forbes.

Slim, with a hand in everything from telecommunications (America Movil) to mining, finance and industry (Grupo Carso), to retailing and real estate across the Americas region, was worth \$1 billion less than a year ago, hit in part by sagging markets in South America.

In third was Spain's Amancio Ortega, whose pockets have filled with profits from fashion: his hugely successful Inditex garment empire, parent of popular chains Zara, Pull & Bear, and Bershka. More recently, Ortega heavily invested in real estate in Europe and the United States; his worth was put at \$64 billion.

A familiar cast of mega-



wealthy filled out the rest of the top ten: US investment guru Warren Buffett (\$58.2 billion); software group Oracle's founder and chief executive Larry Ellison (\$48 billion); US industrialists and brothers Charles and David Koch (each with \$40 billion); Las Vegas casino king Sheldon Adelson (\$38 billion); Walmart heiress Christy Walton (\$36.7 billion) and her brother Jim Walton (\$34.7 billion).

Together the \$507 billion held by the top ten is larger than the entire size of the economy of Norway, or Belgium or Poland in 2012.

- 31 billionaires under 40 -

US billionaires dominated the list, with 492, followed by 152 from China and 11 from Russia.

Forbes said two-thirds of them made their own fortunes, while 13 percent inherited. The rest took fortunes they received and built them up to the \$1 billion-plus level.

The biggest climb on the list in the year came from Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg. The public sale of the company's stock more than doubled his net worth to \$28.5 billion, leaving him at number 21, just behind Hong Kong's venerable tycoon Li Kasheng and just ahead of Italian choco-

latier Michele Ferrero.

Zuckerberg, 29, led a group of 31 billionaires under 40 years old. Youngest, at age 24, was Perenna Kei -- also known as Ji Peili -- the 85 percent shareholder of real estate company Logan Property Holdings, which went public in Hong Kong in December. Her father Ji Haipeng is chairman and chief executive of the company.

Saudi investor Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, a nephew of the oil giant's king, was likely to remain unhappy with Forbes after blasting it last year for allegedly understating his wealth.

Forbes put his fortune this year at just \$20.4 billion -- enough for a ranking of number 30 -- compared to \$20 billion a year ago.

Defending itself last year, Forbes said the prince "systematically exaggerates" his wealth.

Last week Alwaleed sent out a press release noting that the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a rival of Forbes, put his fortune at \$30.5 billion.

In the statement, he assailed Forbes for "use of incorrect data" and said its approach "seemed designed to disparage Middle Eastern financial institutions such as the Saudi stock exchange."

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

I	N	S	T	R	O	D	F	L	E	A
T	E	T	R	O	V	E	R	E	A	D
S	O	U	V	E	N	I	R	O	T	T
A	N	N	A	S	D	E	M	S		
		U	S	B		L	A	T	H	E
R	O	L	L	E	D	I	E	A	R	I
O	B	I	T	E	C		Q	T	I	P
T	O	A		T	H	A	T	U	S	N
H	E	R	B	A	L	S	C	I		
		R	E	E	L		A	N	J	O
A	C	H	E		H	A	I	R	N	E
M	E	O	W		E	L	M	O	D	I
A	L	T	S		M	A	A	M	I	S

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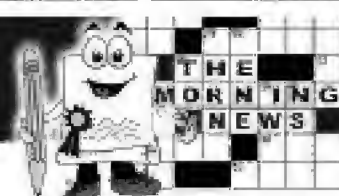
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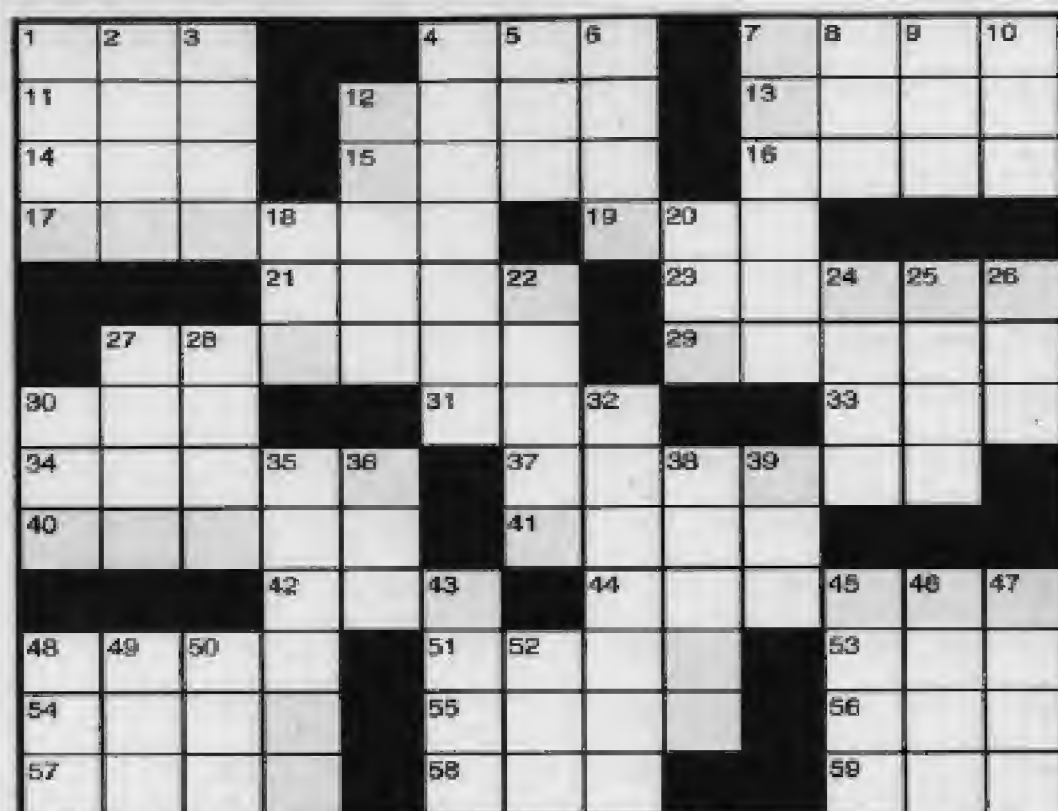
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ACROSS

1. Cul-de-___
4. Pack animal
7. Residence
11. Sportage manufacturer
12. Small piece
13. Bookie's numbers
14. Proofs of age (abbr.)
15. NYC vehicle
16. Pause
17. Dictator
19. Driveway sealer
21. Declare
23. Relieved sounds
27. Motion pictures
29. "Farewell, Francisco!"
30. Apprehend a

suspect

31. Distance measures (abbr.)
33. Sharpshooting tool
34. Mexican painter Kahlo
37. Filled pastry
40. Corrective eye surgery acronym
41. Old sailor
42. Dunderhead
44. Groaned
48. Dropper's word
51. Swiss ___ knife
53. "Are you a man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)
54. Leg hinge

DOWN

55. Competed
56. Hold session
57. Becomes solid
58. Culmination
59. Make last
1. Slip
2. Voluntary worker
3. TV panelist Peggy
4. Subject for a future doctor
5. VI
6. Rotisserie accessory
7. Repulsive
8. Lyric lines
9. Physicians (abbr.)
10. Guess at a price (abbr.)
12. Heating device

18. Cooking utensil
20. Skinny ___ rail (2 wds.)
22. Walks in water
24. 1958 Leslie Caron film
25. Clock unit
26. Social Security no.
27. "___ Mia"
28. Heron's relative
30. Football league letters
32. Swindled
35. Treats without respect, in the 'hood
36. Wanted poster initials
38. Beau and Jeff's dad
39. ___ crossroads (2 wds.)
43. Surface a street
45. Airplane front
46. Actor Estrada
47. See socially
48. Authorizes
49. Solitary number
50. Animal friend
52. ___ Tin Tin

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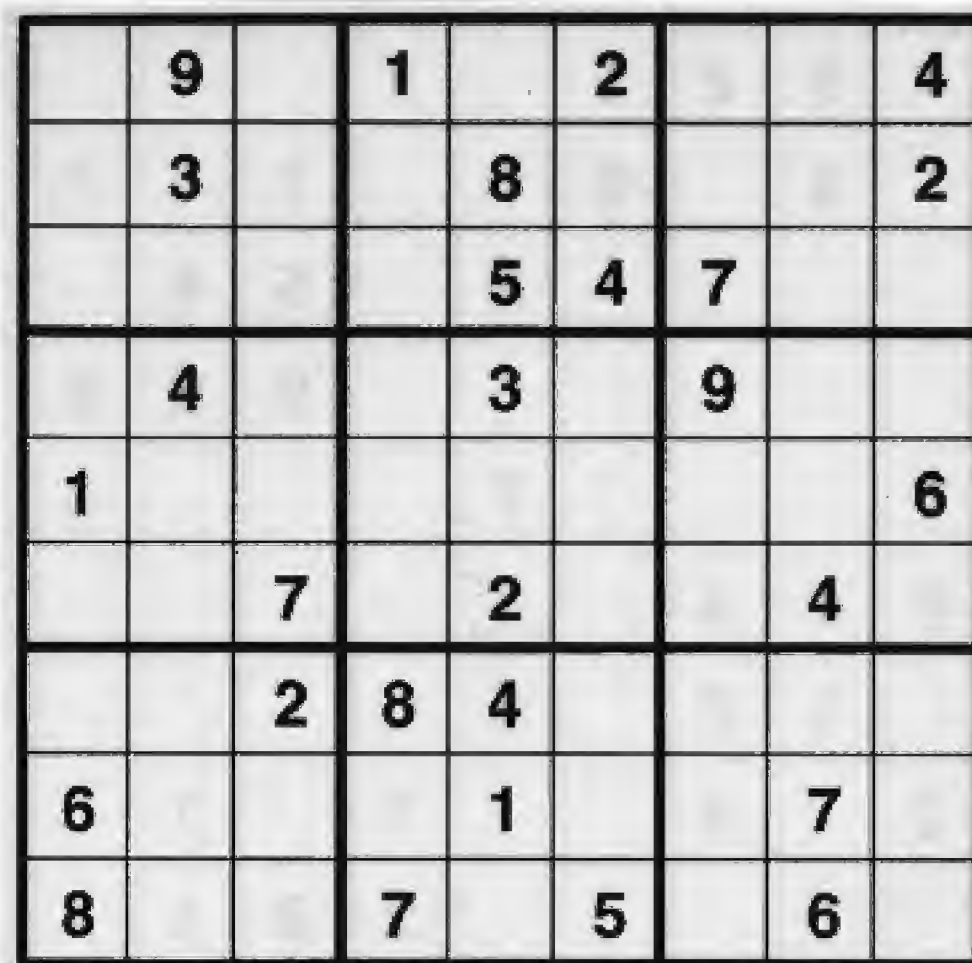
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2	9	7	5	6	4	1	3	8
8	2	5	6	1	3	8	5	9
5	6	1	9	4	8	2	7	3
1	4	8	2	5	4	9	6	3
6	9	5	4	1	3	7	2	8
4	2	6	1	5	9	8	7	3
3	1	2	7	9	8	6	5	4
7	5	9	4	8	6	1	3	2
9	3	8	2	9	1	5	4	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 8am, patrons can now order 2

eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$1.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on, after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie, so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.



5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to

make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.

Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches! Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic,

heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Tennis: Bollettieri, Davenport voted into Hall of Fame

NEWPORT (AFP) - Legendary coach Nick Bollettieri and former women's world number one Lindsay Davenport were among five people named Monday as new inductees to the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

The Americans will be joined by Dutch wheelchair tennis star Chantal van Dierendonck, long-time executive Jane Brown Grimes and British author and broadcaster John Barrett.

A ceremony will be conducted July 12 during the ATP Hall of Fame Championships at Newport, Rhode Island. The newcomers will join 235 people from 20 nations on the 60-year-old roll of honour.

Bollettieri, 82, has coached 10 players who would become world number ones, including Andre Agassi, Jim Courier, Monica Seles and Boris Becker.

He has also worked with Maria Sharapova and Serena and Venus Williams and remains active in mentoring young talent, having more recently worked with Japanese star Kei Nishikori and American Ryan Harrison among others.

In 1978, Bollettieri founded his own boarding school and tennis academy, which has since evolved into a huge facility with offerings in eight sports and more than 900 year-round students.

"Through extraordinary coaching and his keen ability to inspire greatness, Nick Bollettieri is the person we can all thank for helping create some



Dutch wheelchair tennis star Chantal van Dierendonck.

of the sport's greatest champions and therefore, most memorable moments," Hall of Fame president Stan Smith said.

Davenport, 37, is a three-time Grand Slam singles champion who topped the rankings for 98 weeks, finishing as a year-end number one in 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2005.

Davenport won the 1993 US Open, 1999 Wimbledon and 2000 Australian Open and also captured the gold medal at the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympics among her 55 singles titles. Her career record was 753-194.

"I'm so honored by this incredible recognition," Davenport said. "To be recognized in the Hall of Fame alongside the great champions who have always inspired me is just a tremendous honor."

Davenport helped the US team win three Fed Cup crowns and was also an accomplished doubles player, winning three Grand Slam doubles crowns.

Vandierendonck, 49, was the women's wheelchair world number one in singles for 136 weeks and doubles for 107 weeks after being injured in a 1983 car accident. She also won five Paralympic medals.

Grimes, 73, has held leadership roles at the WTA and US Tennis Association and worked in tennis for more than 40 years.

Barrett, 82, is a former British Davis Cup captain who has in recent years been a noted author, journalist and television commentator on the sport.

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Boxing: Indian boxing out in the cold after AIBA decision

LAUSANNE (AFP) - The Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) has been provisionally excluded by the sport's global governing body, the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA), it was announced on Monday.

The IABF had already been suspended in December 2012 but the AIBA had promised to review that decision once the International Olympic Committee had lifted its suspension of the Indian Olympic Association, which it did last month just prior to the Winter

Olympics in Sochi.

However, in a strongly-worded statement on Monday the AIBA said that, having looked at the situation again, they had no option but to go a step further and provisionally exclude the IABF.

"It is with much regret that the International Boxing Association Executive Committee (EC) has decided to end any official relationship with its current suspended member, the Indian Amateur Boxing Federation after an extensive evaluation and assessment of all

issues surrounding the sport of boxing in India.

"After the suspension since December 6, 2012, AIBA has not recognized any official activities and did not support the officers from this National Federation for almost 16 months.

The AIBA, whose president is the reformist Wu Ching-Kuo of Taiwan, said the situation would be maintained until they felt that a group of people they could deal with had been elected to run amateur boxing in India.

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Golf: Henley wins Honda in playoff as McIlroy struggles

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (AFP) - Russell Henley won the US PGA Tour Honda Classic on Sunday with a birdie at the first hole of a four-way playoff, denying Rory McIlroy in a tournament he'd led for three rounds.

Henley rolled in his birdie putt at the par-five 18th for the victory after Northern Ireland's two-time major champion McIlroy, Scotland's Russell Knox and American Ryan Palmer had all parred the par-five that served as the decider.

Henley had parred his final three holes after a double bogey at the par-three 15th to close out a two-over-par 72 and finish the tournament on eight-under 272.

McIlroy endured a difficult day at PGA National, posting a four-over 74, while Knox



carded a one-over 71 and Palmer posted a one-under 69.

Despite his struggles, McIlroy had a chance to win at the final hole of regulation, where he stuck his 240-yard second shot 11 feet from the pin, but his eagle putt trickled past.

In the playoff, Henley was the only player to reach the green in two, and he two-putted from some 40 feet for birdie.

Palmer missed a 10-foot birdie attempt, while McIlroy fired out of a bunker to the front fringe and had to scramble for par and Knox missed a 20-foot birdie putt.

American Billy Hurley carded a 68 to finish fifth on 273. Canada's David Hearn with a 67 and American Will MacKenzie with a 70 shared sixth on 274.

World number one Tiger Woods withdrew after 13 holes citing back pain.

Woods, who had barely made the cut but came alive with a five-under 65 on Saturday, was five over for the day when he called it quits.

The 14-time major champion said he didn't yet know if he would be fit enough to defend his title at the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship at Doral starting Thursday.

Both of McIlroy's birdies on the front nine were followed by bogeys, and he dropped another stroke at the ninth.

He gave another stroke back at 12 before his double-bogey at 16, where he hit out of a bunker and into the water, and

his bogey at 17 cost him even a share of the lead.

Henley, who had pitched in at 14 for a second straight birdie, then lost momentum when he found the water at 15.

Palmer, playing ahead of McIlroy and Henley, bogeyed the last to fall to eight under, where Knox was the first to join him in the clubhouse.

Bobsleigh: German pilot fined, banned for lending rival equipment

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany's Manuel Machate was on Monday given a year's ban and fined 5000 (US\$6884) euros for lending specialised bobsleigh equipment to Russia's Alexandr Zubkov, who won two Sochi Olympics golds.

Germany's Bobsleigh and Luge Federation (BSD) handed the 29-year-old Machate the heavy penalty after he admitted having handed over specialised runners to Zubkov, who won two-man and four-man golds Winter Olympic golds in Sochi.

Machate, who did not qualify for Sochi, said the equipment came from his personal possessions and was not BSD equipment, but the governing body said he should have informed them first.

"The relatively hard punishment" is the "first step to defend national interests" said the federation in a statement.

The BSD insisted there is "no connection" to their team's failure to win a single Olympic medal for the first time in 50 years and the severity of Machate's fine and ban.

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Pistorius pleads not guilty as witness tells of 'bloodcurdling screams'

PRETORIA (AFP) - South African Paralympian star Oscar Pistorius pleaded not guilty Monday to murdering his girlfriend as his trial opened with a neighbour's account of "bloodcurdling" screams before shots rang out on the night of the killing.

Pistorius, whose trial is being broadcast live around the world, faces a life sentence if convicted of the fatal Valentine's Day shooting of model and reality television star Reevea Steenkamp a year ago.

After a state prosecutor charged that Pistorius "unlawfully and intentionally did kill" Steenkamp, he entered a plea of "not guilty, my lady".

Pistorius, 27, a double amputee sporting hero known as the "Blade Runner" for his carbon-fibre running blades, also pleaded not guilty to three unrelated gun charges.

A single judge, Thokozile Masipa, is presiding in the case that has already been likened to the murder trial of American footballer OJ Simpson over the killing of his ex-wife and a friend in 1995.

In a statement read out by his lawyer Kenny Oldwage, Pistorius described her death as a "tragic accident" saying he had mistaken his 29-year-old lover for an intruder.

He admitted killing Steenkamp, but denied murderous intent. "This allegation is denied in the strongest terms," he said. "We were in a loving relationship."

The first prosecution witness to take the stand, Michelle Burger, said she and her husband were awoken at around 3 am by "bloodcurdling screams" coming from the Pistorius home in an upmarket Johannesburg gated community.

"She screamed terribly and she yelled for help," the university economist said. "It was something you can't explain to someone else, how anxious those screams were."

"Just after her screams, I heard shots, four shots," she said, describing one clear shot then three clustered together.

"Bang... bang, bang, bang"

"I heard petrified screaming before the gunshots, and just after the gunshots," she said when pressed by Pistorius's lawyer.

Advocate Barry Roux challenged Burger over potential inconsistencies, asking in particular why she heard four gunshots but her husband, who is yet to testify, reported hearing five or six.

The trial was adjourned until Today when the defence will

continue cross examining Burger.

Monday marked the first time the victim's mother June came face-to-face with Pistorius since the killing.

"I want to look at Oscar, really look him in the eyes, and see for myself the truth about what he did to Reevea," she told a British newspaper ahead of the trial.

Further down from her on the wood-panelled bench sat

Pistorius's brother Carl, sister Aimee and a handful other relatives.

The state is seeking to prove that Pistorius killed Steenkamp in a rage after the couple quarrelled in the early hours of February 14, 2013.

Prosecutors are also expected to claim that Pistorius had watched pornography just before the shooting, apparently contradicting his account of events.

The athlete, the first double amputee to compete against able-bodied athletes at the London 2012 Olympics, will also be asked why he allegedly told security guards at his luxury estate that everything was fine when they phoned after hearing gunshots.

In a bid to illustrate a history of reckless behaviour with firearms, the state claims that Pistorius on two occasions fired a pistol in public, once

through the sunroof of a moving car and then at a busy restaurant.

The state has a exhaustive list of 107 witnesses that includes the defendant's former girlfriends, though it is unlikely everyone will be called to testify.

If found guilty of premeditated murder, Pistorius faces 25 years in South Africa's notoriously brutal jails and an abrupt end to his glittering sporting career.

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